



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health – Women's & Children's Health Section
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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

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January 19, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants

FROM: Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN
Head Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: CDC's Childhood Immunization Champion Award

The purpose of this memo is to announce to providers that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has initiated a new annual award, the *CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award*. The award recognizes individuals who make a significant contribution toward improving public health through their work in childhood immunization. Each year, up to one *CDC Immunization Champion* from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia will be honored. Awardees for the inaugural year will be announced during National Infant Immunization Week, April 21-28, 2012.

The CDC Childhood Immunization Champion is an individual who meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Has provided community leadership on immunization issues and collaborated with others to build support for and increase immunization rates of infants and young children
- Has used creative and/or innovative strategies to promote infant and young child immunization and meet unique immunization challenges within their community, state or region, including for example, reaching hard-to-reach or under-immunized populations
- Has been a visible immunization champion in a community and/or medical system by acting as a spokesperson, advocate, and/or educator
- Has been an advocate for immunization policy advancements

Champions can include health care professionals (e.g., physicians, nurses, physicians' assistants, nurse practitioners, medical assistants, etc.), coalition members, parents, and other immunization leaders who meet the award criteria. State immunization program managers, state and federal government employees (including contractors), and individual affiliated with and/or employed by pharmaceutical companies are not eligible to apply.

Self-nominations are welcome. Or you may submit an application for a deserving individual. Nomination packets are available online through a link to the CDC site via the NCIP's web site at: www.immunize.nc.gov

Submit the completed nomination packet directly to the NCIP. All nomination forms are due to the NCIP by **February 10, 2012**. Nomination packets should be sent to the attention of Andrea Held and can be emailed to andrea.held@dhhs.nc.gov, sent via US Postal Service to 1917 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1917 or faxed to 919-870-4824. Each state will conduct their own review process and will nominate one individual to receive the CDC Immunization Champion Award. States will forward their nominations to CDC, and CDC will review state nominees and issue awards. Awards will be announced in conjunction with National Infant Immunization Week, April 21-28, 2012. Champions will receive a certificate of recognition, will be featured on CDC's web site, and will be recognized by the NCIP during NIIW.

For additional information on the *CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award*, go to the NCIP web site at: www.immunize.nc.gov and click on the link to the CDC's page on the award program.

Providers who have question about the award should contact Andrea Held at andrea.held@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-707-5564.

Thanks for all you do to protect the health of North Carolinians.

Cc:	SMT	Field Staff	Central Office Staff	Vaccine Manufacturers
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